

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 SS-20 AID-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AGR-20

DRC-01 /143 W

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R 280840Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4871

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: BURMA MEDIA SPOKESMAN ON NARCOTICS TOPICS

REF: A) STATE 57955 (NOTAL); (B) RANGOON 760

1. PERSUANT REF A, WE HAVE DRAWN DITTERT'S ATTENTION TO REMARKS MADE BY U ON PE CONCERNING BURMA'S FUTURE PLANS IN NARCOTICS FIELD, INCLUDING PREEMPTIVE BUYING AND LICIT EXPORTS (REF B). DITTERT HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. ON BASIS STATISTICS GUB HAS REPORTED TO INCB TO DATE, BURMA HAS UTILIZED FOR DOMESTIC MEDICAL PURPOSES AN OLD STOCKPILE OF IMPORTED OPIUM AND OPIUM OBTAINED FROM SEIZURES. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORTED USAGE OF OPIUM PRODUCED IN SHAN STATE OR ELSEWHERE IN BURMA. BOARD'S RECORDS SHOW THAT IN RECENT YEARS BURMA HAS USED A MAXIMUM OF 13 TONS OF OPIUM ANNUALLY FOR MANUFACTURE OF CODEINE, AND ITS STOCKS AT END OF 1972 STOOD AT 14 TONS. THEREFORE, A PROBLEM OF SUPPLY ARISES SINCE STOCKS MUST BY NOW BE EXHAUSTED AND SEIZURES ARE

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PROBABLY INSUFFICIENT TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS.

3. HOWEVER, PROCEDURE WHICH BURMA REPORTEDLY PROPOSES TO ADOPT AS OUTLINED REF B IS ILLEGAL, EXCEPT AS IT RELATES TO SEIZED OPIUM USED EITHER FOR DOMESTIC MEDICAL PRUPOSES OR FOR EXPORT TO OTHER PARTIES TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION. CONVENTION REQUIRES THAT ANY OPIUM OTHER THAN SEIZED OPIUM, USED DOMESTICALLY OR FOR EXPORT MUST BE PRODUCED UNDER CONTROLS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY. IT IS ILLEGAL FOR ANY COUNTRY ITSELF TO USE DOMESTICALLY OR TO EXPORT ANY OPIUM PRODUCED UNDER UNCONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

4. DITTERT NOTES HE APPRECIATES DELICATE POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEM IN BURMA. EXPRESSES HOPE IF BURMESE PROPOSE MOVE IN DIRECTION MENTIONED BY PRESS SPOKESMAN IN INTERVIEW WITH VOA CORRESPONDENT, THAT GUB CAN BE PERSUADED TO APPROACH INCB INFORMALLY SO THAT BOARD CAN EXPLAIN LEGAL DIFFICULTIES.
DALE

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Message Attributes

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